

From: Richard D. Copeland, Jr.
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/19/01 2:18pm
Subject: Proposed Microsoft Settlement

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Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a computer programmer and consider myself knowledgeable of the computer industry. I am writing concerning the proposed Microsoft settlement with the Department of Justice. Since Microsoft has already been found guilty, I consider the existing settlement to be severely lacking in several areas. As it is currently written, the settlement will not prevent Microsoft from continuing their anti-competitive behavior. Also, it provides no penalty for Microsoft's past behavior. A meaningful settlement needs, at a minimum, the following:

- * Both the Windows API and Microsoft document formats (MS Word, MS Excel, etc) must be made freely available to anyone who wants them.
- * Microsoft networking protocols must be standardized by a standards body. This will prevent Microsoft from using their private, proprietary protocols to seize control of new applications used on the Internet.
- * Microsoft products should be provided only as extra-cost options on personal computers. The software should also be available for the same price as the difference between a computer loaded with Microsoft products, and one without any Microsoft products. This will prevent Microsoft from "bundling" an entire kitchen sink of applications with Windows, increasing the price of Windows (either directly or indirectly), and preventing competition.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Copeland, Jr.
concerned, informed Citizen